

Claim 1 (original): A ski binding, in particular for cross-country skiing, comprising a sliding element displaceable in the running direction, as well as at least two spring-loaded pins movable in transverse direction for latching engagement in corresponding fittings in the tip region of the ski boot (step-in mechanism), characterized in that each of the two latching pins (101) is carried by a molded part (109) that is movable transversely to the running direction, which molded part each is loaded by a spring acting transversely to the running direction and guided in one link each of the sliding element (142), which sliding element is displaceable in the running direction.

Claim 2 (original): A ski binding according to claim 1, characterized in that the sliding element (142) is guided in the running direction on a base plate (129) fastened to the ski, the base plate (129) being covered at least in the region of the tip of the ski boot by a housing (100) in which openings (103) are provided on either side thereof so as to receive the latching pins (101) of the step-in mechanism.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A ski binding according to claim 1 ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the sliding element (142), via a hinge (130') extending transversely to the running direction, is connected to a lever (130) that projects obliquely upwards in the running direction, having an oblique surface (105) destined for stepping out, and a depression for insertion of the pole for opening the binding.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A ski binding according to claim 1 ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the base plate (129) is provided with a peripheral rib (107) which

engages in a corresponding groove (108) of the housing part (100).

Claim 5 (currently amended): A ski binding according to claim 1 ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that on both sides of the binding, the latching pins (101) project from one molded part (109) each, which molded parts (109) are located in mirror-inverted relationship on either side of the binding and provided with a projection (110) extending into a link of the sliding element.

Claim 6 (original): A ski binding according to claim 5, characterized in that the link consists of preferably triangular openings (111 or 111', respectively,) located symmetrically opposite each other about an axis extending transversely to the running direction, and each provided with a guiding face (112, or 112', respectively,) on which the respective projection (110) of the molded part (109) is supported.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A ski binding according to claim 1 ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the molded parts (109) are each provided with a tapped blind hole (113) for receiving a pressure spring (136) which is tensioned between oppositely arranged molded parts (109).

Claim 8 (currently amended): A ski binding according to claim 1 ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that viewed in the running direction, at least two pressure springs (136) are adjacently arranged.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A ski binding according to claim 1 ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the oppositely arranged projections (110) of the molded parts (109) are supported on oblique guiding faces (112, 112') in the

openings (111, 111') of the sliding element (142), which openings serve as links, and by displacement of the sliding element are movable towards or away from each other, respectively, and are under the action of the springs (136).

Claim 10 (currently amended): A ski binding according to claim 1 ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the ski-tip side end of the sliding element (142) or its end facing away from the lever (130) is guided in a bridge part (114) of the housing (110).